

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. An automated transaction machine apparatus comprising:
- at least one computer processor;
- at least one data store in operative connection with the computer processor,
- 10 wherein the computer processor is operative to cause a plurality of digital
information files to be retrieved from at least one digital information source
located remotely from the machine and saved in the data store;
- at least one input device in operative connection with the computer processor;
- 15 a cash dispenser device in operative connection with the computer processor,
wherein the computer processor is operative to cause the cash dispenser to
dispense currency responsive to at least one first input through the at least one
input device; and
- 20 at least one output device in operative connection with the computer processor,
wherein the computer processor is operative to cause the dispense of at least one

of the digital information files through the at least one output device responsive to at least one second input through the at least one input device that corresponds to the at least one digital information file.

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2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the at least one input device comprises a card reader device in operative connection with the computer processor, wherein the card reader device is operative to read account indicia from a card, and wherein the computer processor is operative to cause one or more fees to be charged to the account corresponding to the dispense of currency and the dispense of the at least one digital information file.

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3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one digital information file includes a digital sound recording file.

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4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the at least one digital information file includes an MP3 file.

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5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the at least one output device includes a sound system, and wherein the computer processor is operative to cause the output of sound through the sound system responsive to the at least one digital information file.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the computer processor is operative to cause a licensing fee associated with the at least one digital information file, to be transferred to a licensing entity.

5 7. Apparatus comprising:

an automated transaction machine including:

at least one input device;

a cash dispenser, wherein the cash dispenser delivers cash from the machine responsive to inputs to the at least one input device;

at least one output device, wherein the at least one output device is operative to cause the delivery of digital content responsive to inputs to the at least one input device.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the at least one output device is releasibly operatively connectable to a portable computing device.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the at least one output device comprises a communications port releasibly operatively connectable to a portable computing device adjacent the machine.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the digital content comprises at least one sound file.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the at least one sound file comprises a music file.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the digital content comprises at least one audiovisual file.

13. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the at least one input device is adapted to receive at least one input corresponding to an account, and wherein the machine further includes:

at least one processor, wherein the processor is in operative connection with the at least one input device, the cash dispenser and the at least one output device, and wherein the processor is operative to cause the account to be charged for at least one of delivered cash and digital content.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the at least one input device includes a card reader, and wherein the input corresponding to an account is produced responsive to at least one card read by the card reader.

5 15. The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the processor is operative to cause content indicia corresponding to a plurality of portions of the digital content to be output through the at least one output device, and wherein the processor is operative to cause a selected portion of the digital content to be delivered responsive to at least one selection input corresponding to the selected portion, through the at least one input device.

10 16. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the machine includes a display device and the content indicia is output through the display device.

15 17. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the content indicia includes a graphic image corresponding to at least one of the portions of the digital content.

18. The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the apparatus comprises at least one content data store, wherein the digital content is delivered from the content data store.

20 19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the content data store comprises a local content data store located in the machine.

20. The apparatus according to claim 18 and further comprising:

at least one network in operative connection with the machine; and

at least one remote computer in operative connection with the network, wherein the content data store is in the at least one remote computer.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20 and further comprising:

at least one financial transaction computer in operative connection with the at least one network, wherein the processor is operative to cause the account to be charged through communication with the at least one financial transaction computer through the at least one network.

22. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the at least one input device on the machine is operative to receive a network delivery address, and further comprising:

at least one network in operative connection with the machine, wherein the processor is operative to cause the digital content to be delivered through the at least one network to the network delivery address, whereby a remote computer corresponding to the network delivery address is enabled to receive the digital content.

23. The apparatus according to claim 19 and further comprising:

at least one network in operative connection with the machine; and

at least one remote computer in operative connection with the network, wherein
the at least one remote computer includes at least one remote content data store.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the machine is operative to
selectively deliver digital content from either the local content data store or the remote content
data store responsive to at least one input to the at least one input device.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the processor is operative to cause
digital content in the remote content data store to be stored in the local content data store.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the processor is operative on a
periodic basis to cause selected digital content in the remote content data store to be stored in the
local data store.

27. The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the selected digital content
comprises at least one sound file corresponding to at least one currently popular song.

28. The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the selected digital content comprises at least one sound file corresponding to at least one currently popular book.

29. The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the selected digital content
5 comprises at least one audiovisual file corresponding to at least one currently popular movie.

30. The apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the selected digital content includes at least one graphic image corresponding to the at least one song.

31. The apparatus according to claim 13 and further comprising:

at least one network in operative connection with the machine,

at least one financial transaction computer in operative connection with the
network, wherein the processor is operative to cause the account to be charged
responsive to communication through the at least one network with the at least
one financial transaction computer.

32. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the at least one financial transaction
20 computer includes a source account associated with a source of the digital content, and wherein
the source account is credited responsive to delivery of the digital content.

33. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the at least one financial transaction computer includes a licensing account associated with a licensing entity for the digital content, and wherein the licensing account is credited responsive to the delivery of the digital content.

5 34. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the account is associated with a user of the machine, and wherein the at least one financial transaction computer includes the account, and wherein the account is debited responsive to either delivery of cash or delivery of digital content.

10 35. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the at least one financial transaction computer holds a content prepay account for delivery of digital content, and wherein the processor is operative responsive to at least one input to at least one input device to cause funds to be transferred from the account to the content prepay account, and wherein the processor is operative to cause the content prepay account to be debited responsive to the delivery of the digital content.

36. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the output device includes a reproduction device operative to reproduce the digital content on a portable storage medium.

20 37. The apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the reproduction device is operative to cause the digital content to be reproduced in a portable computing device releasibly operatively connectable with the machine.

38. The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein the digital content is reproduced in the portable computing device such that it can only be played in the portable computing device.

39. The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein the digital content is reproduced in the portable computing device such that it cannot be further transferred in digital form from the portable computing device.

40. The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein the digital content is reproduced in the portable computing device such that it can only be played a limited number of times.

41. The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein the digital content is reproduced in the portable computing device such that it can only be played during a limited time period.

42. The apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the machine includes a supply of portable media, and the reproduction device is operative to reproduce the digital content on the portable storage media from the supply.

43. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the digital content is reproduced in the portable computing device such that reproduction of the digital content is restricted.

44. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the machine further comprises a supply of portable storage media, and wherein the digital content is delivered by being reproduced on portable storage media from the supply.

5 45. The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the at least one output device includes a sound system, and wherein the digital content is delivered through audio outputs through the sound system.

10 46. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the at least one output device includes a sound system, and wherein the digital content is delivered through audio outputs through the sound system.

15 47. The apparatus according to claim according to claim 31 wherein the at least one output device includes an audiovisual output device, and wherein the digital content is delivered as audiovisual outputs through the audiovisual output device.

20 48. The apparatus according to claim according to claim 7 wherein the at least one output device includes an audiovisual output device, and wherein the digital content is delivered as audiovisual outputs through the audiovisual output device.

49. The apparatus according to claim according to claim 31 wherein the at least one output device includes a printer device, and wherein the digital content is delivered by printing the digital content with the printer device.

5 50. The apparatus according to claim according to claim 7 wherein the at least one output device includes a printer device, and wherein the digital content is delivered by printing the digital content with the printer device.

10 51. The apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the machine is located in an establishment, and wherein the account charged for the delivered digital content is an account of an operator of the establishment.

15 52. The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein the machine is located in an establishment, and wherein the account charged for the delivered digital content is an account of an operator of the establishment.

20 53. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the automated transaction machine further comprises:

a currency acceptor, wherein the machine is further operative to deliver digital content responsive to deposit of cash into the currency acceptor.

54. The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the automated transaction machine further comprises:

a currency acceptor, wherein the machine is further operative to deliver digital content responsive to deposit of cash into the currency acceptor.

55. A method comprising:

- (a) providing at least one account identifying input to the at least one input device of the automated transaction machine of claim 7;
- (b) providing at least one dispense input to the at least one input device of the machine;
- (c) dispensing either cash from the machine or digital content responsive to the at least one dispense input.

56. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

- (d) charging an amount for the dispense of cash or digital content, to an account associated with the at least one account identifying input.

57. The method according to claim 56 wherein step (a) comprises reading the account identifying indicia from a card with a card reader on the machine, and wherein step (d) comprises communicating with a financial transaction computer remotely located from the machine.

5 58. The method according to claim 55 wherein step (c) includes recording the dispensed digital content with a portable computing device.

59. The method according to claim 58 wherein step (c) includes placing the portable computing device in releasible operative connection with an output device on the machine.

10 60. The method according to claim 58 wherein in step (c) the recording is conducted such that reproduction from the portable computing device is restricted.

15 61. The method according to claim 55 wherein the digital content comprises a sound file.

62. The method according to claim 61 wherein the digital content comprises a music file.

20 63. The method according to claim 61 wherein the digital content comprises a document file.

65. The method according to claim 55 wherein the digital content comprises an audiovisual file.

64. The method according to claim 61 wherein the digital content comprises an image file.

66. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (c) the dispense of digital content comprises sending the digital content through at least one network to a network delivery address.

67. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

(d) crediting a source account associated with a source of the digital content responsive to the dispense of digital content in step (c).

68. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

(d) crediting a licensing account associated with a licensing entity of the digital content responsive to the dispense of digital content in step (c).

69. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

(d) debiting an amount from an account associated with the account identifying input; and

(e) crediting the amount to a prepay account;

(f) debiting the prepay account responsive to the dispense of digital content in step (c).

70. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (c) the dispense of digital content includes delivering sounds through a sound system.

71. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (c) the dispensing of digital content includes delivering audiovisual material through an audiovisual system.

72. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (c) the dispense of digital content includes printing digital content with a printer.

73. The method according to claim 70 wherein the machine is located in an establishment, and further comprising:

(d) charging an account associated with the establishment responsive to the dispense of digital content.

74. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

- d) reproducing in a local content data store in the machine, digital content from at least one remote content data store accessed through at least one network by the machine.

75. The method according to claim 74 wherein in step (c) the digital content is delivered from the local content data store.

76. The method according to claim 74 wherein in step (c) the digital content is delivered from either the local content data store or the remote content data store.

77. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (a) the account identifying input comprises a biometric input from a user of the machine.

78. The method according to claim 55 wherein step (c) comprises reproducing the digital content on a portable media.

79. The method according to claim 78 wherein in step (c) the portable media is from a supply of portable media in the machine.

80. The method according to claim 55 wherein in step (c) the portable media is supplied by a user of the machine.

81. The method according to claim 55 and further comprising:

(d) receiving currency with a currency acceptor on the machine; and

(e) dispensing digital content responsive to the receipt of currency in step (d).

82. Computer readable media operative to cause at least one processor in the automated transaction machine to carry out step (c) recited in claim 55, responsive to performance of steps (a) and (b).